

What is claimed is:

1. A method for the manufacture of a key top comprising:

forming a metalizing layer on the surface of a transfer substrate;

forming a first transparent printed layer patterned as letters, numbers, symbols, pictures, and the like and having resistance to etching on said metalizing layer;

removing the metalizing layer which is not masked by said transparent printed layer by etching; and

placing said transfer substrate on a plastic key top body and transferring a transfer layer consisting of said transparent printed layer and metalizing layer after etching onto the key top body.

2. The method for the manufacture of a key top as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a step of forming a second transparent printed layer on the front surface of the transfer substrate prior to the step of forming said metalizing layer, wherein said transfer layer comprises the second transparent printed layer.

3. The method for the manufacture of a key top as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a step of forming a parting agent layer

on the surface of said transfer substrate prior to the step of forming said metalizing layer or prior to the step of forming the second transparent printed layer.

4. The method for the manufacture of a key top as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a step of forming a parting agent layer on the surface of said transfer substrate prior to the step of forming said metalizing layer or prior to the step of forming the second transparent printed layer.

5. A key top in which a printed layer patterned with letters, numbers, symbols, pictures, and the like and consisting of two layers, namely, a first transparent printed layer and a metalizing layer provided on the rear surface thereof, is formed on the rear surface of the key top body.

6. The key top as claimed in claim 4, wherein a second transparent printed layer is formed on the rear surface of said patterned printed layer.

7. The key top as claimed in claim 5, wherein said first transparent printed layer and said second transparent printed layer are colored in different colors.